

DECLARATION OF THE FIRST AFRICA-SOUTH AMERICA SUMMIT

WE the Heads of State and Government of Africa and South America meeting in the First Africa-South America Summit (ASA) in Abuja, Nigeria, on 30 November 2006:

EXPRESSING our appreciation to His Excellency Chief Olusegun Obasanjo, President of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, the Government and the people of Nigeria for the warm reception and for hosting, conducting and organizing the First Africa-South America Summit with such excellence;

RECALLING the Constitutive Act of the African Union of 2002 and the historic Decision adopted by the Eight Ordinary Session of the Executive Council of the African Union held in Khartoum, Sudan, from 16 to 21 January 2006 on the Africa-Diaspora Process, EX.CL/Dec.269 (VIII) as well as Decision Assembly/AU/Dec. 128 (VII) adopted by the Seventh Ordinary Session of the Assembly of the African Union held in Banjul, The Gambia, from 1 to 2 July 2006, on the convening of the *First Africa-South America Summit*, in Abuja, Nigeria from 30 November to 1st December 2006;

RECALLING FURTHER the Third South American Presidents' Meeting, held in Cusco, Peru, on 8 December 2004 that created the South American Community of Nations (CASA) to build up a whole integrated South American political, social, economic, environmental and infrastructural area.

ACKNOWLEDGING the contribution and role of the various organs of the African Union and the South American Community of Nations in the preparatory meetings leading up to this first **Summit**.

RECALLING ALSO the historic and cultural links between Africa and South America and the significant role that South America has played in the heroic struggles waged by African peoples and countries for political independence, human dignity and economic emancipation;

BEARING IN MIND that, to promote international peace and security, cooperation between the two regions must rest on commitment to: multilateralism, respect for international law, democracy, and observation of Human Rights and Humanitarian Law; disarmament, prevention and combating of terrorism, combating of illicit trafficking in Small Arms, Light Weapons and ammunitions, fight against human and drug trafficking; non-proliferation of nuclear and other weapons of mass destruction; the pursuit of sustainable development accompanied by social justice, eradication of hunger and poverty; and environmental protection;

RECOGNIZING that South-South Cooperation constitutes a major objective for both regions, especially as regards sharing and transmitting good practices in the area of poverty eradication, sustainable development, gender mainstreaming, science and technology, culture, education and youth of the respective regions and therefore the need for joint actions in these areas;

AFFIRMING the importance of such South-South Cooperation in an interdependent world, which requires the expansion of knowledge of each other, encouragement of

exchange of information and experiences, and working collectively on matters of special mutual interest;

LAUDING the efforts undertaken thus far to enhance this cooperation, such as through the 1st Conference of Intellectuals of Africa and the Diaspora (CIAD I) which took place in Dakar, Senegal from 6 to 9 October 2004 and the 2nd Conference of Intellectuals of Africa and the Diaspora (CIAD II) which took place in Salvador, Bahia, Brazil from 12 to 14 July 2006;

NOTING WITH APPRECIATION the work of the Meeting of Senior Officials/Experts and of Ministers prior to this Summit which took place in Abuja from 26 to 27 November 2006 and 28 November 2006, respectively;

DESIROUS of establishing the requisite mechanisms to intensify cooperation between Africa and South America for the mutual benefit of the states and peoples of the two regions, and also promote effective multilateralism, among other things, and address the challenges associated with it;

STRESSING the importance of promoting the democratization of the international decision-making bodies to improve the participation of developing countries in the multilateral system;

CALLING FOR an urgent reform of the Security Council – an essential element of our overall effort to reform the United Nations – and supporting its enlargement in order to make it more broadly representative for the developing countries, efficient and transparent and, thus, to further enhance its effectiveness, legitimacy and implementation of its decisions.

EXPRESSING our concern over the persistent deadlock in the Doha Round negotiations and **STRESSING** the need for the early resumption and conclusion of these negotiations;

CALLING UPON the WTO to become a truly universal organization, and the various partners to refrain from imposing conditions likely to delay and impede the accession of the developing countries in general, and those of the two continents in particular, to this organization, thereby enabling them to reap the benefits of the multilateral trade system;

DECLARE THAT:

In order to translate this wider commitment into action, we affirm the need to cooperate in the following specific areas:

I. COOPERATION IN MULTILATERAL FORA

1. With regard to ongoing reforms and negotiations at the United Nations (UN) as well as the trade negotiations at the World Trade Organization (WTO), our two regions should reinforce their cooperation in these two areas. **We also stress** the need to reform the International financial architecture according to the parameters and objectives of the Monterrey Consensus.

2. It is imperative that the reform of the United Nations takes into consideration the need to increase the equitable participation of developing countries in the Organization's decision-making processes in order to render it more representative, efficient, democratic and accountable. The process of UN reform should be concluded with a view to democratizing and reforming the Security Council as well as to strengthen the General Assembly as the most representative and deliberative policy making organ of the UN.

3. **We take note** of the Common African position on the UN Reform as stipulated in Ezulwini Consensus and the Sirte Declaration of the Assembly of Heads of State and Government of July 2005 and **reaffirm** our commitment to the early conclusion of the global processes of the UN Reform

4. In the current WTO negotiations, special consideration should be given to the need to coordinate the positions of our two regions to promote the interest of developing countries giving particular attention to the peculiar challenges faced by the Least Developed Countries. We urge for resumption of the Doha Round negotiations as soon as possible.

5. With regard to the decision making processes of the Bretton Woods Institutions, **We urge** for equitable participation of Developing Countries and for the disbursement of funds on concessional and affordable terms as much as possible.

II. LEGAL COOPERATION

6. In view of the importance of law in International Cooperation, the two regions undertake to promote cooperation between their national and regional legal experts and advisors. We also commit ourselves to promote and strengthen cooperation and exchange of experience among our regional legal institutions such as the African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights, the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights, the African Court of Justice and Human Rights of the African Union and the Inter-American Court of Human Rights.

III. PEACE AND SECURITY

7. **We undertake** to strengthen regional cooperation among organizations and mechanisms in which we are members, including the Zone of Peace and Cooperation of the South Atlantic (ZPSCA) and the African Union's Peace and Security Council as important instruments for consolidating peace and security as well as at bilateral and regional levels.

8. In this connection, our two regions shall cooperate in dealing with issues of common interest, such as disarmament and non-proliferation of Weapons of Mass Destruction, landmines, prevention and fight against terrorism, conflict prevention and resolution, peacekeeping, peace-building and peace consolidation initiatives and post-conflict reconstruction in accordance with the principles and objectives of the UN Charter and other relevant instruments.

9. **We shall also cooperate** in combating transnational organized crime, particularly in respect of cyber crime, the illicit trafficking in narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances, money laundering, trafficking in persons and the illicit trafficking in small arms, light weapons-and ammunitions.

10. In view of the imperative of securing peace on the African continent, South America shall also collaborate with African States in peace-building, peace consolidation initiatives and post-conflict reconstruction. This collaboration may assume several forms of cooperation with peace processes in Africa and the African Union's peace and security architecture. **We also agree** to maintain closer consultation in UN bodies dealing with peace-building, peace consolidation initiatives and post-conflict reconstruction.

IV. DEMOCRACY, HUMAN RIGHTS AND OTHER POLITICAL ISSUES

11. **We reaffirm** our commitment to democracy, the protection and promotion of human rights, and consider that initiatives should be undertaken to strengthen the national institutions responsible for these issues. Our two regions shall hold regular consultations on political issues of mutual and global interest so as to facilitate the adoption of coordinated positions conducive to increasing their influence in the international system.

12. **We further reaffirm** our commitment to human rights, including the right to development, and **reiterate** that these rights are universal and indivisible, interrelated, interdependent and mutually reinforcing, and that they should be addressed in a fair, equitable manner, as being equal and as having the same weight.

13. **We also call** on the International Community to respect and protect the rights of the migrants without prejudice to their migration status and encourage countries of the two regions to sign, ratify and implement the 1999 United Nations Convention on Migrants and their Families.

14. **We urge** the International Community to ratify the United Nations Convention on the Protection of the Rights of Migrant Workers and their families, and to contribute to its implementation.

15. **We reaffirm** the importance of protecting indigenous peoples' rights as accepted by our countries within the UN System and other relevant regional organizations.

V. AGRICULTURE, AGRIBUSINESS AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT

16. **We need to develop** our capabilities in agricultural and livestock production and **agree** that South America should participate actively in the promotion of the social and economic development of Africa's rural workers and vast agricultural and livestock resources. **We further agree** to support the revitalization of agriculture to boost social and economic development and achieve nutritional and food security in Africa through the Comprehensive Africa Agricultural Development Programme (CAADP), which is the starting point for cooperation in the area of agriculture and agro-industry.

17. Relations between the two regions shall foster cooperation, training and exchange of experiences, in the area of biotechnology, biofuels, tropical agriculture,

and agrarian reform. This should include support for horizontal and vertical diversification measures, in order to add value to the agricultural products. The two regions shall also work closely in the ongoing negotiations on Agriculture within WTO for the total elimination of trade distorting subsidies and for greater and effective market access for our agricultural products.

VI. WATER RESOURCES

18. **We recognize** the importance of water as a natural resource of State that is an essential element for life with a socio-economic and environmental functions. **We shall promote** the right of our citizens to have access to clean and safe water and sanitation within our respective jurisdictions.

19. We realize the need to promote sustainable use of water for agricultural and industrial purposes. In this regard, **we shall promote** the exchange of information and experience between our regions with a view to achieving the Millennium, Development Goals.

VII. TRADE AND INVESTMENT

20. International trade is an important instrument for promoting social and economic development, creating job opportunities, increasing income, reducing poverty, and improving living conditions.

21. **We recognize** the existing trade relations between the two regions **and urge** the enhancement of trade and cooperation between the two regions **and agree to work** towards the establishment of trade arrangements for the benefit of the people of our countries. In this connection, mechanisms shall be established for increasing trade and investment between Africa and South America, and exchange of technologies to add value to raw materials. **We shall encourage** private sector participation to promote such initiatives through National Business Associations and the possible establishment of an Africa-South America Business Association. In this regard, **we take note with satisfaction**, of the proposed establishment of an Africa-South American Bank and which the governments of the two regions shall examine within the framework of their internal legislation taking into account the financial integration processes underway in the two regions. **We also take note** of the establishment of the African Investment Bank of the African Union.

22. Moreover, regulated, transparent, non-discriminatory, and fair multilateral trade is essential to permit developing countries to benefit from globalization. Accordingly, our two regions agree to work together to achieve a fair and balanced multilateral trading system. **We are deeply concerned** about the delay in the WTO negotiations on the Doha Development agenda and **call for** a full resumption and successful completion of the Round, with development issues at its center as agreed in Doha.

23. **We express our appreciation** for the role played by the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) as a focal point in the UN for integrated treatment of trade and development as well as related issues in the areas of finance, technology, investment and sustainable development, as underlined by the São Paulo Consensus and the G77 Ministerial Declaration documents that were approved at the XI UNCTAD meeting in São Paulo in June 2004.

24. **We recognize** that cooperation in trade and investment matters will have greater impact through joint initiatives aimed at endowing negotiators at bilateral and multilateral trade fora with the necessary skills.

25. **We therefore undertake** to give impetus to the following two initiatives:

- (1) The securing of market access for products from Least Developed Countries, pursuant to paragraph 47 of the Hong Kong Ministerial Declaration.
- (2) Active participation of the countries involved in the current round of negotiations of the Global System of Trade Preferences among Developing Countries (GSTP).

26. **We stress** the importance of making progress in the integration processes in our respective regions, taking into account the asymmetries in the national economies and the special needs and constraints that affect small, vulnerable economies, particularly those of developing land-locked countries.

VIII. COMBATING HUNGER AND POVERTY

27. Pursuant to the MDGs and the Global Call to Action against Hunger and Poverty, **we shall share** experiences and exchange information on the best models for eradicating hunger and poverty, and promoting sustainable development.

28. **We undertake** to implement existing initiatives and to adopt new strategies to that end. Special consideration shall be given to the need to understand each others' reality and to closer coordination of our positions at international fora.

IX. INFRASTRUCTURE DEVELOPMENT

29. **We shall jointly identify** projects aimed at contributing towards infrastructure development and the modalities of funding these projects. And for this purpose, **we recognize** the need to develop direct air routes and to rationalize sea routes between the two regions. The South American Infrastructure Initiative (IIRSA) and, the New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD) Short Term Action Plan (STAP) of the African Union, form a basis for mutual exchange and support in the area of infrastructure development. **We shall share** information and knowledge on the best way to organize transportation means (air, sea, road and railway) within and between our two regions.

X. ENERGY AND SOLID MINERALS

30. **We shall give priority** to establishing inter-regional partnerships and the promotion of investment in Africa by South America in mining and energy sectors for harnessing fossil fuels, particularly hydrocarbons, petrochemicals, as well as renewable energy resources, such as hydro power, biofuels, solar, geothermal, and wind energy, to meet various energy requirements. In this area, the activities of the African Energy Commission (AFREC) the Latin America Energy Organization (OLADE) are relevant and should be encouraged. Furthermore, taking into account South America's experience in developing technology and appropriating skills for the

extractive industry, **we shall encourage** the exchange of information with a view to enhancing employment of local African labour in this sector.

31. **We mandate** AFREC and CASA to elaborate an energy strategy to promote sustainable development, while respecting the sovereign right to manage and regulate natural resources, and to consider the possibility of establishing an Energy Commission for our two regions.

XI. SOCIAL AND CULTURAL COOPERATION, TOURISM, YOUTH AND SPORTS

32. To strengthen the cultural identity of our peoples and enhance cultural exchanges between them, **we shall undertake** cooperation and exchange initiative aimed at the formulation of strategies for dissemination through the communications media, particularly through television advertising, so as to encourage the exchange of information between the two regions and promote extensive cultural integration between Africa and South America. **We shall cooperate** in promoting the first ever 2010 FIFA World Cup tournament in Africa and **we shall support** moving the FIFA World Cup to South America in 2014. We shall also undertake initiatives aimed at exchange and cooperation in the area of social sciences, tourism, and sports as well as at the recovery and revalorization of the original cultural traditions of the indigenous peoples and communities. **We shall place** special emphasis on the facilitation and strengthening of relations between Africa and the African Diaspora in South America.

XII. SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY AND INFORMATION AND COMMUNICATION TECHNOLOGIES (ICT)

33. Given that science and technology are essential components of the industrialization processes of the two regions, we must develop and implement initiatives towards enhancing our capacities in these areas. **We shall**, wherever possible, exchange our experiences in the formulation and implementation of policies in science, transfer and development of technology to meet our development objectives. It is necessary to protect and to benefit from traditional knowledge as well as to find a solution to the problem raised by the granting of intellectual property rights on biological resources and/or associated traditional knowledge, without due compliance with relevant provisions of the Convention on Biological Diversity. Specific attention should also be paid to developments that will narrow the digital divide within and between our two regions and the rest of the world, as envisaged in the Tunis Declaration adopted at the World Summit on the Information Society (WSIS), held in Tunis, Tunisia, in November 2005. In this connection, our regions undertake to contribute to the Digital Solidarity Fund established for this purpose. Initiatives for cooperation on laying down the infrastructure and legal framework to support information and communication development should be undertaken.

XIII. HEALTH

34. Cooperation between Africa and South America in the area of health encompasses the HIV/AIDS, malaria, tuberculosis, and other pandemics. In this regard, attention should be paid to the African Union's Plan of Action for the operationalization of the policy framework on Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights adopted by African Health Ministers in Maputo in 2006. Attention should also

be paid to the Millennium Development Goals, Universal Access Strategy and the resolutions of the WHO's Assembly, and the UNAIDS Position Paper for Intensifying HIV Prevention. In the effort to increase the population's access to health, to early diagnostics, and to preventive and curative drugs used against HIV/AIDS, malaria, tuberculosis and other pandemics, initiatives aimed at facilitating the availability of drugs against HIV/AIDS and of other generic drugs against these pandemics should be undertaken.

35. **We undertake** to support the International Drug Purchase Facility (UNITAID), recently established at the UN, which is an effective and efficient mechanism for combating poverty by means of investment channeled towards combating HIV/AIDS, malaria, tuberculosis and the other pandemics. Our two regions should thus reinforce the purchase and distribution of drugs to poorer countries affected by these pandemics, through the UN system and other appropriate agencies.

XIV. EDUCATION

36. Cooperation and exchange programmes should be implemented with a view to achieving the MDGs in the area of education and the six key Education for All (EFA) goals, as defined in the Dakar Framework for Action as well as the implementation of the Plan of Action of the Second Decade of Education in Africa, 2006-2015. **We undertake** to pay special attention to promoting cooperation and mutual support among educational, technical and research institutions, as well as the exchange of researchers, students and faculty, language teaching and promotion of government cooperation in educational and academic matters including through the creation of inter-regional university institutions, the possible granting of scholarships and in other activities, such as the holding of conferences and seminars on issues of mutual interest.

XV. ENVIRONMENT

37. In the context of sustainable development, the efficient management of natural resources will be one of the pillars of cooperation between our two regions. Special attention should be given to the conservation and sustainable use of the environment, in accordance with the relevant international instruments, including the Kyoto Protocol, sustainable use of biodiversity, including marine resources, and to the promotion of measures against the dumping of hazardous and toxic waste. We shall also share experiences and promote technical cooperation in the areas of new and renewable energy, combating desertification, global warming, forestry, the depletion of the ozone layer and combating pollution. To achieve these objectives, we shall endeavour to access the Global Environment Facilities (GEF) as well as to have new and additional financial resources made available to developing countries.

XVI. GENDER ISSUES

38. **We shall implement** all existing measures adopted by the UN, the AU and other regional organizations and **mainstream** gender and implement the role of women in the achievement of MDGs. **We shall ensure** the full participation of women in the economic development of our respective countries and ensure equal participation of women in all decision making structures of our respective governments. **We shall also develop** education programmes for men and boys to educate them on the rights and responsibilities of women and the girl child. **We shall**

further enhance the development of women's skills and **promote** equal access to education for both genders. **We shall cooperate** in ensuring the development of women's health and **promote** equal pay for equal work for both genders.

XVII. INSTITUTIONAL DEVELOPMENT, INFORMATION EXCHANGE AND SHARED VIEW OF APPROPRIATE PRACTICES

39. The two regions shall undertake initiatives aimed at strengthening the existing continental, inter-governmental and research institutions that are envisaged to play a key role in furthering cooperation between our two regions. **We shall also promote** centres of excellence from among such institutions and information exchange and the sharing of best practices in all areas of cooperation. Intellectuals, civil society (NGOs, private sector actors, research institutes, religious groups and community leaders), and policy makers in our two regions and the Diaspora shall be associated with programmes and projects in these areas.

XVIII. FOLLOW-UP MECHANISM

40. In order to ensure the effective implementation of the programmes and policies agreed to in this Declaration, **we hereby establish** an Africa-South America Follow-up Committee composed of the current Co-Chairs and incoming Co-Chairs, with the assistance of the African Union Commission and the Secretariat of the Community of South American Nations.

41. The Follow-up Committee comprising high level officials, shall be responsible for proposing new initiatives and undertaking actions on previously agreed programmes and projects, reviewing the progress of their implementation and disseminating information about cooperation arrangements. It shall also follow up on Ministerial and Summit decisions, and submit recommendations to Summits..

42. **We agree** that the Africa-South America Summits will be held every two (2) years in Africa and in South America, on a rotational basis.

43. The second Africa-South America Summit (ASA) will be held in 2008 and **we have accepted** with pleasure, the offer of the Government of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela to host it.

44. In the period between Summits, other meetings will be held, in the form and at the level that the Governments and the two regions may decide.

45. This Cooperation Programme shall be implemented in the context of the Plan of Action we have adopted and the Follow-up Mechanism contained in this Declaration.

AFRICA-SOUTH AMERICA
SUMMIT
26 - 30 NOVEMBER, 2006



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ABUJA DECLARATION

Assembly/AU/5 (VIII)
Annex 1

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